

A PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT OF the United States Antarctic expedition of 1939-41 has just been published by the American Geographical society. The account is of special interest here because Richard B. Black, a former Grand Forks man, was in charge of one of the two bases established on the shores of the southern continent, and from which the work of exploration was conducted. The entire expedition, as on former occasions, was organized by Admiral Byrd, whom Black had accompanied to Antarctica on a preceding expedition.

ON THIS OCCASION TWO MAIN bases were established, one within a few miles of the site of Little America, the earlier headquarters, and the other nearly 2,000 miles east. Black was in command of the east base, to which his party was carried by the Bear, one of the two ships used for transportation. The published pamphlet has a map of the area covered, which, with the accompanying text, indicates the routes followed and outlined the land charted. En route to the east base parties from the Bear charted several hundred miles of coast, and from the east base itself flights were made during the entire stay, resulting in the charting of more hundreds of miles of coast which had never before been plotted on any map.

ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE Black party at the east base was Finn Ronne, a genial chap of Norse extraction who visited Grand Forks with Black before the expedition got under way. Ronne's father had been a member of one of the earlier Byrd expeditions. The story told in the pamphlet, which was prepared by Lieutenant Commander R.A. J. English, is told in a terse, matter-of-fact way, and is confined chiefly to geographic and other scientific detail. Back of the scientific data lies a wealth of dramatic human interest, in which the annals of all exploration are rich, but which the stay-at-home reader must imagine for himself.

IN A FEW BRIEF SENTENCES COMMANder English tells of the emergency evacuation of the east base when it was found late in the season that the Bear could not reach the base because of ice. Time was precious, as winter was closing in. Unless the men were moved out at once they would be compelled to stay for another year, and no provision had been made for such a stay. In two groups of twelve each the men were flown to an island 112 miles away, from which they were picked up by the Bear. It sounds quite simple, but in that inhospitable part of the world, rugged and ice-bound, subject to sudden blizzards and dense fogs, the slightest miscalculation would have meant disaster.

A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS the other day, speaking against the St. Lawrence seaway, said that he had just returned from a visit to Canada, and that he had found little sentiment in that country in favor of the project. The congressman, it happens, was from New York, and a New York congressman can be pretty certain to find sentiment against the waterway improvement if there is any to be found. New York interests like to have all the traffic routed through their port, even if it costs producers, shippers and consumers more money.

IN HIS SEARCH FOR CANADIAN sentiment the gentleman from New York had visited two Canadian cities, Montreal and Quebec. To all intents Quebec is an Atlantic ocean port, and has no reason to be greatly interested, one way or the other, in the improvement of the St. Lawrence.

MONTREAL IS THE GREAT TRANSfer point for shipments between the Great Lakes and the ocean. Canadian wheat going eastward over Canadian rails reaches deep water at Montreal and is there transferred to ocean vessels. Some shipments are also carried by shallow-draft vessels through the present canals and also are transferred at Montreal. Quite naturally the Montreal people would like to retain that business. In his search for Canadian sentiment the gentlemen from New York looked for Canadian sentiment just where he might be expected to find the kind of sentiment for which he was looking.

FOR REASONS SIMILAR TO THOSE which inspire Montreal's opposition to the waterway improvement, river cities of a century ago were often violently opposed to the building of railroads, and even more violent in their opposition to railroads were the carters and stage owners of England. English weavers wrecked some of the early steam looms, and American farm hands objected strenuously to the new fangled harvester which they believed would deprive them of their jobs.

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT the remarkable manner in which British morale has been maintained through the air raids which have wrought such havoc and have rendered life difficult at all times and extremely hazardous much of the time, No where is there any difference of opinion concerning the manner in which the British spirit had remained firm and bouyant. But the best evidences of that spirit are to be found, not in the letters of newspaper correspondents, excellent as many of them are, but in the intimate letters written by British people to relatives and intimate friends in this country. There the writers disclose their inmost thoughts, frankly and without posing or disguise.

I HAVE BEEN READING SOME letters received recently by a Grand Forks family from a relative in Plymouth, England, who chats informally about experiences in that often bombed city and of the manner in which the war has affected English life. The writer is a lady 75 years of age, of modest, but ample means and not all the experiences of the war have been able to quench her cheerful spirit or suppress the quiet humor which her friends know to be characteristic of her. On condition that I mention the names of neither writer nor local recipients I am permitted to use some excerpts from a letter dated June 30. She writes:

"AM THANKFUL TO SAY WE ARE all much as usual, in spite of the two last dreadful raids, for neither of us got even a scratch, thought a H. E. (high explosive) bombshell a few yards down the road from this house, made a big crater, smashed the gas, water and sewer mains, damaged every house, about 50 of them. Those nearest suffered most of course—our front windows this time, also ceiling and roof again, which makes the fourth time. Will picked up a dozen granite blocks, very heavy, which had gone through our roof, made three holes in the ceiling of my living room and a fairly big hole in my front room, besides cracks which will necessitate papering, sometime, perhaps in 1942, also the window glass in the same year, D. V. (doubtful, very).

WORKMEN ARE BROUGHT HERE daily from Torquay, Newton-Abbott, Cornwall and other places just to render 'first aid' to buildings. There is so much damage done to dwelling houses all over the place. Hundreds of people have gone into the country villages to live, others just for sleeping accommodation, for the duration. The raid alarms have eased off for a few days, which gives one a chance to quiet down a bit.

"WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO THE U. S. A. for their help and think Mr. Roosevelt a splendid Christian man, also the Providence was responsible for him being returned to power for a longer period than usual.

"I ONLY WISH PICTURES WERE allowed to be taken of the destruction Hitler's gang has done in this city alone. The Wanton destruction is indescribable —nothing whatever of military value. Had there been a violent earthquake one could have understood it, churches, the municipal building, postoffice, stores and shops, streets of them all destroyed, nothing left but heaps of debris and warped girders. Buildings that are standing have been gutted by fire.

"ONE BLESSING IS, NOW, THAT our boys, with the Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans are able to give the Huns a taste of their own physic, and are giving them a good dose. I expect they will soon begin to squeal, for the lies they get dished up to them will not last forever. I expect that Hitler is getting a surprise packet from Russia, and what about his undying friendship for Stalin. When rogues fall out honest men will get their due," An old saying, as you know.

"WE HAD A LONG, COLD WINTER and spring, so the hay harvest is only just on here, and it made all vegetables very dear and scarce. Had not seen an onion for months. We used to get tons of them over from Brittany until the war broke out. We depend so much on overseas in this island.

HERE THE WRITER EXPRESSES thanks for a parcel of which she has been informed, but which had not yet arrived. She continues: "What we miss most of all is the dried fruits for cakes and for stewing. Also oranges and lemons. I've seen only one lot of them since the war started, and then oranges were 6 to 8 pence per pound. There is no doubt there is plenty of profiteering going on. For instance, gooseberries are now in season. Three weeks ago I saw them marked one and one-half shillings (about 30 cents at current exchange). The government said they were to be sold at 6 pence. In consequence no more are to be got anywhere. Strawberries are 1-6 to 1-3 per punnet, which is a chip basket 4 inches square by 2 inches deep, holding about a pound. Many are grown here locally, so how can you make jam? These things are rationed: Butter 1/4 pound; tea, 2 ounces; cheese, 2 ounces; bacon, 1/4 pound; eggs, 3 at 2-9 per dozen; beef or lamb, one shilling's worth. I believe next week we are to have a little more, as the Argentine are sending some over to us. We also used to get a lot of New Zealand lamb and butter, which is lovely, but of course we want the ships for other things just now, but none of us mind denying ourselves with this war on. An easy way of "slimming," besides, we can always go to grass like Nebuchadnezzar, eh?"

**SENATORS NYE AND CLARK, ADDRESSING** a Grand Forks audience last week, wasted a lot of time telling the people that war is a bad thing. An apochraphal story attributes to President Coolidge the statement that the preacher had declared himself "agin" sin. If the preacher expressed himself to that effect he would have the entire congregation with him, and undoubtedly the two senators were in complete accord with practically everybody else in expressing their detestation of war. There may be a few persons of twisted mentality who on general principles prefer war to peace, but I have never come across any of them.

**IN THE NAZI PHILOSOPHY WAR IS AC**cepted as a natural and normal state of life, but even the Nazi leaders prefer to achieve their purposes with as little fighting as possible. As to the German people, even those who have been hypnotized by Hitler. I have no doubt that they look forward eagerly to the time when they shall be able to settle down to a peaceful life. They have been taught that they are the chosen people, destined to rule the world, and it will be necessary for them to keep on fighting until that goal is reached. After that there will be profound peace —under Nazi dictatorship.

**WHETHER FOR OFFENSE OR DEFENSE,** war is universally recognized as something disagreeable and undesirable, to be undertaken for the achievement of a purpose, whether that purpose be good or bad. Nobody likes it, nobody approves of it for its own sake, and when a speaker proclaims and declaims that war is cruel, brutal, hateful, the mental response will be "Certainly! What about it?" The speaker might as well tell his audience that hail, and rust, and grasshoppers are bad for the crops.

**WHEN ONE LOOKS OUT UPON THE** world he finds a mass of detail so confused, complicated and contradictory that it is impossible for him to arrange the pieces of the mosaic into any consistent pattern. Mixed motives, social, political and economic, are apparent everywhere. Men profess adherence to ideals, and then use those ideals for the furtherance of selfish interests. Promises are made that are not intended to be kept. Little Finland, which won and still holds the admiration of the world for resistance to an oppressor, has been brought by the turning of the wheel into alliance with a greater oppressor in order to avenge herself. We condemn and oppose the soaring ambition and brutal methods of Hitler, but now Hitler is fighting Communistic Russia, and few of us have any use for Communism. At every turn we meet some fact that seems to contradict some other fact, and every street seems to have a dead end.

**IF WE UNDERTAKE TO EXAMINE THE** world situation item by item we find ourselves in the position of the man who couldn't see the forest for the trees. But, examined in perspective, at a suitable distance, there appears a pattern which is distinct, consistent and understandable. Hitler has declared that the system which he has built must rule Germany, and that under the guidance of himself and his fellows, Germany must dominate the world. As a necessary part of that program he has made himself master of nearly all of Europe, and with an iron hand he has suppressed whatever of liberty existed in the countries which he had overrun, and as rapidly as possible he is making their inhabitants slave laborers to aid in the expansion of his military machine.

**HITLER IS IN DIRECT ALLIANCE WITH** Italy and Japan. He had crushed France. He is now attempting to crush Russia. His agents have been diligently at work throughout Latin America. He has his fifth columnists in the United States operating to sabotage the American defense program. His domination of the world cannot be complete until he has disposed of Great Britain and the United States. If possible he will avoid conflict with the United States until he has subdued Britain. For the time being British resistance serves to insure the United States against immediate attack, whether direct or roundabout. Therefore the most effective defense of America lies in aiding Britain in her conflict with Hitler.

**WHAT FORM THAT AID SHALL TAKE** ultimately must depend on later developments. Thus far we have been supplying war material to Great Britain. That has been exceedingly useful, and it may be that if production can be expanded greatly and rapidly and transportation of goods can be assured, Hitler can be subdued without direct military aid from the United States. But, if Britain is crushed, we shall find ourselves alone in a world dominated by the avowed apostle of brute force. That makes it fairly clear where the real interest of the United States lies, and what constitutes a real "America first" program.

HARRY O'BRIEN OF PARK RIVER devotes a column in his Walsh County Press to the America First meeting recently held in Grand Forks. Harry devoted special attention to Senator Nye for gallivanting about the country making speeches and to Mayor Thoresen for introducing him. Really, the whole subject is nothing to get excited about, but Harry is a very positive person who goes after a thing hammer and tongs when he goes at all.

MENTION OF OFFICIAL introductions recalls to me an incident during the administration of Dr. J. D. Taylor as mayor of Grand Forks. Dr. Taylor was an enthusiastic and military Republican, but he was greatly disappointed in not having an opportunity to introduce William J. Bryan to a Grand Forks audience. Bryan was a distinguished American and a candidate for president of the United States. Dr. Taylor felt that when a man occupying such a position made a public appearance in Grand Forks he should be welcomed by the official head of the city, and he was prepared to extend such a welcome to Bryan without abating in any degree his opposition to Bryan's principles. However, the people in charge thought it better to have a Democrat do the honors. I have forgotten what Democrat introduced Bryan on that occasion.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATION of the golden jubilee of Lebanon Masonic lodge at Langdon on July 28 there was issued a booklet giving a history of the lodge and a complete roster of its membership from the beginning to date. In very large measure the history of Lebanon lodge is the history of Langdon itself, for the men who founded the lodge and carried on its work have at all times been leaders in the civic and business life of the community.

LEBANON LODGE WAS CONSTITUTED July 27, 1891 by James McDonald of Grafton, then a grand lodge officer and later grand master. There were 12 charter members, of whom John M. Blakely was chosen master. The twelve charter members were John M. Blakely, Marcus G. Fossum, John Bidlake, Robert Meiklejohn, Frank J. Hodgins, Robert Fleming, James Bowery, John Hunter, Alfred W. Putnam, Fred Hall, Isaac Uilyot and James T. Anderson. In the jubilee booklet there appears after the name of each of these twelve the word "Deceased" Not one is left of the founders of the lodge. Through the years here have been admitted to the lodge 535 men, of whom 114 are now active members in good standing of Lebanon lodge, while at least an equal number are members of lodges in other cities. The booklet not only gives the name of each of these members and former members, but the present address of those who are living. Collection of this information and bringing it up to date must have involved a vast amount of research, and the result is something that will be of real value, now and hereafter.

I SEEM TO HAVE DISCOVERED A new bug, or maybe it is merely an old one that has reappeared. Anyway, I suppose I am entitled to the same sort of congratulation that was given the patient by his doctor, The patient was suffering with some obscure malady and had gone to the physician to see what was the matter with him. After a long and involved examination the doctor shook hands with his patient and said: "My dear sir, allow me to congratulate you! You have contracted a painful and in variably fatal disease which has been supposed to be extinct for more than three hundred years!"

I FIND THAT MY SWEETPEAS are loaded with insects so small as to be scarcely visible without a magnifying glass. These tiny creatures are grayish white and are found, sometimes in clusters and sometimes singly on leaves and stalks, and I found them in thousands on the iron frame which supports the fence. There they were very active, moving back and forth, weaving almost invisible webs. Presumably they are aphids of some sort, but they are entirely different from anything that I have seen before. I suggest that sweetpeas be looked over carefully.

ALMOST EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR with the old jingle, of which there are many versions, one of them beginning: Ten little Injun boys Went out to dine. One choked his little self, Then there were nine.

I have a copy of a parody on that jingle which has traveled a long way. First published in a New Zealand paper, it was sent by a reader to a friend in England. That friend sent it to a friend in Grand Forks, who has passed it on to me. It struck me as unusually clever, and I suspect that it will find a place in scrap books. Here it is:

**A NEW VERSION. Authorship Unknown.**

Ten little foreign lands Thinkking of a swine; Austria thought—but couldn't act And then there were nine.

Nine little foreign lands Simmering with hate; The Czechs found hating not enough And then there were eight.

Eight little foreign lands Put their trust in heaven; Poland trusted overmuch And then there were seven.

Seven little foreign lands In an awful fix; Norway tried neutrality And then there were six.

Six little foreign lands Hardly half alive; Denmark stuck to dairy work And then there were five.

Five little foreign lands  
Tried the open door;  
Belgian troops threw down their arms  
And then there were four.

Four little foreign lands Hoping to be free; Holland couldn't stand the strain And then there were three.

Three little foreign lands In an awful stew; Luxemburg got eaten up And then there were two.

Two little foreign lands Went to meet the Hun; France's leaders ran away And then there was one.

One little seagirt-land  
Standing all alone;  
Is going to win this blinking war And win it on her own!

DOWN IN NEW YORK THEY EDUcate their baseball umpires—or try to. At a school of instruction held in the big city the other day an instructor in physical education from Columbia explained the fine points of umpiring, illustrating his lecture by means of a chart representing a baseball field. Players were represented by little magnetized figures which would remain in whatever position they were placed. When the instructor was asked if in actual play a situation ever occurred in which a fan in the grandstand could see the play better than the umpire, the instructor shouted indignantly:

"If that ever happened I would put the ump in the stand and feed him hot dogs and peanuts instead of paying him a salary!"

JAPAN HAS APOLOGIZED TO THE United States for hitting an American gunboat with a bomb, and Secretary Stimson has apologized to Senator Wheeler for mistakenly charging him with trying to stir up soldiers to protesting against pending legislation. The United States has accepted the Japanese apology, and Senator Wheeler said it was "very decent" of Stimson to make his apology. In this wave of politeness would it be reasonable to expect Hitler or Ickes to apologize to somebody for something?

A HEADLINE IN A NEW YORK PAPER starts off "Heat strikes 415." That wasn't the temperature, however, even though it was a blistering day. It was the number of persons reported suffering from heat prostration.

SOME WEEKS AGO A CORRESPONDENT asked why something was not done to recall Senator Nye. To this I replied that there is no provision for the recall of senators. Another correspondent who neglects to sign his name quotes a part of the North Dakota recall law to the effect that it shall apply to any congressional, state, county, judicial or legislative officer. There can be no question that the framers of the recall law intended it to apply to senators and representatives in congress, both of whom are congressional officers. But the federal constitution says that representatives in congress shall be elected for two years, and Senators for six years. There seems, therefore, to be conflict on this subject between federal and state constitutions, and, if there is such conflict, the federal constitution, of course, would govern.

FOR THIS REASON I HAVE ASSUMED all along that neither senators nor representatives in congress can be recalled, and that view is supported by excellent legal opinion. However, the question must be considered open, as there has been no legal determination of it. We may be certain that if the issue were raised in a formal proceeding, extended litigation would follow.

IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT IF A petition were filed for recall of a senator its legality would be contested in the state courts and the supreme court would be asked to pass on it. Then, if the state courts decided the procedure to be legal, and an election were held, resulting in the defeat of the incumbent and election of his rival, the senate itself would have to decide whether to retain the incumbent member or oust him and seat his rival. The senate is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members. The senate is traditionally jealous of its prerogatives, and a pretty clear legal case would have to be made to induce it to unseat one of its members. For these reasons there is at least strong probability against the unseating of a United States senator by means of the recall. All this is quite apart from any conditions which might cause individuals to desire application of the recall.

"THE VOYAGEUR'S HIGHWAY" IS an interesting book just published by the Minnesota Historical society. The author, Dr. Grace Lee Nute, has assembled an immense quantity of material relating to the great water highway from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg, which was old in use by explorers and fur traders when much of the territory now far better known was new. Says the writer:

"Hardly were the Pilgrim fathers acquainted with their rocky fringe of continent when French explorers reached the very heart of North America. By 1660 both shores of Lake Superior had been visited, and men had gone beyond —how far we do not know."

NOT ONLY HAS DR. NUTE TRACED the route followed by the early travelers by means of old maps and ancient records, but she has traveled those hundreds of miles of fascinating highway herself in her own canoe, sometimes paddling it herself, and sometimes assisted over portages by friendly Indians who still inhabit that still remote and little-known country.

A FEW DAYS AGO I WROTE ABOUT a tiny insect that I had found on my sweet peas, and which had been classified by several friends as some sort of aphid, although very much smaller than the green aphid, or plant louse, with which all gardeners are familiar. Thanks to Dr. G. C. Wheeler, head of the University department of biology, and his microscope, I have learned that the bug isn't an aphid at all, but a spider.

This insect is classified as a red spider mite. Mine are white, or nearly so, but that doesn't matter. It is well known that green blackberries are red. Similarly, a "red" spider may be white. These almost invisible insects are of wide distribution. Evergreens suffer from their depredations, and at times they attack both flowering plants and garden and field crops. An excellent book on insects has a picture of an infested spray of sweet peas which might easily be a photograph of one of my plants. Accompanying it is the following description:

"LEAVES OF PLANTS INFESTED by red spiders present a peculiar appearance. Those lightly infested have pale blotches or spots showing through the leaf. In heavy infestations the entire leaf appears light in color, dries up, often turning reddish-brown in blotches or around the edge. Plants generally lose their vigor and die. The undersurface of lightly infested leaves will show silken threads spun across them. In heavy infestations these threads may form a web over the entire plant, upon which the mites crawl and to which they fasten their eggs. The underside of leaves, on close examination, will be found covered with minute eight-legged mites, showing as tiny, reddish, greenish, yellowish or blackish moving dots on the leaves. The color appears to vary in part with the kind of food."

ANOTHER PARAGRAPH TELLS OF the blotched appearance of leaves of beans and other infested plants, and continues:

"The under surfaces of such leaves look as if they had been very lightly dusted with fine white powder. When examined under a lens the fine white specks are seen to consist of empty wrinkled skins and minute spherical eggs and to be suspended on almost invisible strands of silk. Upon this silk, and beneath it on the surface of the leaf, are resting or running about numerous minute, whitish, greenish or reddish eight-legged mites of several sizes, up to about 1-60 inch long. These mites live upon the sap of the plant, which is drawn by piercing the leaf with two sharp, slender lances attached to the mouth. Besides the loss of sap it seems possible that the leaves are poisoned by the feeding of the mites."

AS THESE MITES DO NOT CHEW the leaves, arsenical or similar poisons have no effect on them. Ordinary contact sprays have scarcely any effect on them unless so strong as to destroy the plants. The simplest treatment recommended is to spray with a mixture of glue and water. Several formulas are given for spraying, but this is the simplest as well as the cheapest. It is the one that I shall try. The mixture recommended is one pound of glue dissolved in eight gallons of water. This should be repeated after about a week in order to catch mites that have hatched since the earlier spraying.

THE GLUE TREATMENT IS QUITE old. It operates to close the pores of small, soft-bodied insects and smothers them. After the glue has done its work, which takes about a day, it should be washed off with a strong jet of water from the garden hose. ,

PHARAOH AND HIS EGYPTIANS were plagued with frogs. We are experiencing a plague of toads, and most persons would prefer frogs. Every highway is covered with the obnoxious reptiles, and they have invaded the city. Toads live on insects, and there are now so many ! of them that soon there should be no insects left.

THE AMERICAN POSTOFFICE IS A great institution. Most of us know very little about it. Occasionally we see statements of its volume of business and of its hundreds of millions of revenues and expenditure, but those things scarcely register. We drop a letter into the mail box and take it for granted that within an incredibly brief time it will arrive at its intended destination, which may be in the heart of a great city or in an obscure hamlet or a lonely farm a thousand miles away. The mail carrier calls at our door daily and delivers the daily paper, business and social letters and packages of all descriptions which have been sent from all sorts of places. We take this service for granted, and we think little about the means by which it is accomplished.

A SHORT TIME AGO I MAILED A package to a New York City address, also a letter informing the addressee that the package was being sent. By return mail, I should judge, the letter was returned with the notation on the envelope "No such address in New York City." I looked up the correct address and found that I had carelessly written 186th street instead of 168th street. I notified my friend of the error and also wrote the postoffice asking that the address be corrected if the package had been misdirected and was still held. (It was mailed fourth class, postage 3 cents.) Promptly I received a card from the New York office acknowledging receipt of my request and saying that the matter would be given immediate attention.

A DAY OR TWO LATER I RECEIVED a letter from my friend saying that the package had been correctly addressed by me and had been delivered. I have just received another card from the postoffice saying that the package had been delivered and giving date of delivery.

POSTAGE ON THE PACKAGE COST me 3 cents. My letter to the office cost 3 cents more. At a total cost to me of 6 cents the postal department carried a package and a letter 2,000 miles, delivered the package to the addressee, acknowledged the letter in which I had asked to have the supposedly erroneous address corrected, and then notified me of delivery of the package. The letter which I had addressed incorrectly was carried from Grand Forks to New York and back for 3 cents.

THAT KIND OF SERVICE CALLS for intensive organization. Without that the service could not be given at all. With it, it is given immediately. Incidentally, postoffice people are human, and make mistakes, like the rest of us. The card which I just now received had been addressed to Grand Rapids instead of Grand Forks, and somebody had corrected it.

MRS. H. ZINDARS, 209 EUCLID avenue, had more green peas than were needed at the time, and part of them were set aside for later use. When she started to shell them for a later meal Mrs. Zindars found that nearly all of them had sprouted in the pods. Peas are persistent growers, and quite often they will sprout when quite green if they are fairly well advanced and conditions of heat and moisture are right.

IN DIRECTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS of his Herald upon his return from a vacation trip J. J. Vleck of Langdon writes:

"I just returned from a six weeks 6,000-mile railroad vacation trip that took me through Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans, Pensacola, Fla., Montgomery, Atlanta, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, New York, Portland and Bangor, Maine, all through the New England states, up to Montreal, Toronto, (Guelph, Kitchner, Stratford, London, close to W. P. Davies old stamping grounds), in all these many and various cities, I purchased and read their daily paper, and I can honestly state that none of them, in my estimation, is anywhere all around as good as your Grand Forks Herald, from your front page to your back page you print a good paper each and every employee who is responsible for printing and publishing such a fine newspaper as the Grand Forks Herald can feel proud of their achievement."

Many thanks.

**THAT THE PERIOD OF SERVICE OF MEN** inducted into the army within the past year would be extended has generally been taken for granted. Even most of those who have strongly disliked the idea of such extension have conceded that it could not well be avoided, and most of the members of congress who would have preferred no extension at all have devoted their effort to making the extension as brief as possible rather than to opposing any extension. Instead of following the president's recommendation to authorize him to extend the period of service at his own discretion, 'the senate has passed a bill providing for extension of 18 months beyond the period originally contemplated. Coupled with this is provision for an increase of \$10 per month in the basic pay after the original year of service. That bill now goes to the house, where a vigorous effort will be made to cut the extension severely, perhaps making it as low as six months.

**WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE SELECTIVE** service law provided in so many words for extension of the term of service beyond one year in the case of a national emergency, and while it is true that the federal government has the legal right to command the military services of any American citizens, not merely for a limited time, but indefinitely, the unfortunate fact is that extension made now, no matter for what period, is bound to cause innumerable heartburnings, and to impair in some measure the national unity that ought to exist.

**REGARDLESS OF THE PRECISE TEXT OF** the law, the recruits were taken into the army in .the expectation on their part, and in the belief of the general public, that they would be released upon completion of one year of service. In that expectation the men went into service, and official discussion of the subject was based on the concept of only one year of service. To have that expectation shattered will be a severe disappointment to many of the men.

**THE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT WAS** passed because of the existence of a national emergency. It cannot be denied that the emergency has increased in gravity progressively during the past year. While in one sense the nation is not at war, it is engaged in activities which partake of the nature of war, and actual, belligerent war has been brought closer to us daily and weekly, until no one can tell at what moment we shall be engaged in full military activity in the Atlantic or the Pacific, or in both.

**A REAL, CRITICAL EMERGENCY EXISTS,** an emergency in which the full man power of the nation must be instantly available, an emergency in which duration of service must be measured by duration of the emergency itself, and not on the expectation of anyone that he is to be relieved at the end of so many months. The tragedy of it is that the method which has been found necessary to deal with the emergency is bound to be productive of disappointment and bitterness. Perhaps a better way could have been found if a different start had been made, but it is too late for that.

**GERMANY AND RUSSIA HAVE NOW BEEN** at war for seven weeks, and no decision has been reached. As was expected at the beginning, German forces have forced their way some distance into Russia, but after the first swift onslaught they have had to fight every foot of the way. Statements emanating respectively from Berlin and Moscow are so contradictory that it is impossible to reconcile them on any reasonable basis, but the plain fact is that the Germans themselves have reported day by day for weeks fierce fighting in territory in which they had long ago declared that they had wiped out Russian resistance. Weeks ago the whole Russian defense was said to have collapsed, but that same Russian defense has continued to deal sledgehammer blows and to hold in check the German advance. It is clear that this Russian war is proving a costly adventure for Hitler, and he had only begun to pay its price.

**TENSION BETWEEN JAPAN ON THE ONE** hand and Great Britain and the United States on the other has increased almost to the breaking point. The prevailing opinion among commentators seems to be that immediate course to be followed by Japan depends chiefly on two factors; first, the attitude of Great Britain and the United States with reference to Japanese occupation of more and more strategic territory, and second, Hitler's success in his war with Russia.

**IT IS BELIEVED BY MANY THAT IF THE** Japanese government is convinced that Britain and the United States will fight rather than permit Japanese occupation of Thailand, Japan will make time for the present, awaiting Russian developments, but if these two governments show a disposition to temporize, or German victory is clearly in sight, she will move forward and take whatever chances there are. British and American attitudes seem to have influenced the government of Thailand, which, in effect, has told Japan to keep out.

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FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM another letter from Miss Elizabeth Burnham written in Jerusalem where Miss Burnham was doing Y. W. C. A. work while awaiting transportation home by way of Australia: "Have been to the most beautiful Y. M. C. A. in the world a number of times to teas and dinners. Mr. Miller, Mr. Terrell, Americans and other members of the staff have been most cordial and are all most interesting people. The building itself is a marvel with its beautiful auditorium, pool gymnasium, perfectly equipped lounges and poms. The Jesus tower with its three rooms for meditation and prayer are very lovely in their symbolism.

"LAST EVENING WE CLIMBED THE hill from just outside the old city wall to the Garden of Gethsemane and on a stony path made our way to the top of the Mount of Olives. The Garden is lovely with its gnarled old olive trees and its view of Jerusalem. One could well imagine Christ praying there under those trees or their predecessors. The loveliest church in Jerusalem according to my way of thinking was erected there about 50 years ago by the Franciscan Fathers. It is called the Church of All Nations because many countries contributed to its building. From the top of the Mount of Olives we had a wonderful view of the old and the new Jerusalem. Within the old walls the Mosque of Omar surrounded by the huge stone platform which was the court of the temple of Solomon, is the predominating landmark. Turning around to the other side we could look over the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea. At first those barren stony hills looked desolate indeed and most forbidding, but with the changing lights on them especially at sunset time there is beauty there too. They made me think of the Bad Lands in South Dakota.

"SUNDAY AFTERNOON AS THE shadows were lengthening with this wilderness for a background we saw a presentation of Biblical dances by the pupils of Madama Nikova given in the hillside amphitheater of the Hebrew University. The scene of Rebecca at the well and the presentation of the 137 Psalm with the women wailing for the lost beauty of Zion were very lovely and effectively brought back the olden days in a perfect setting.

"PERHAPS THE PLACE THAT IMPressed me more in or around Jerusalem was the Garden Tomb discovered by Gordon around 60 years ago for it seems to answer the Biblical description of the tomb of Christ. In the simplicity of the Garden with the birds singing one could meditate and quietly think of all that had happened in this vicinity. We climbed the "garden hill" from where we could see , the Garden, the cliff with its natural markings of a "skull", the Damascus Gate, and the old walls of Jerusalem.

"THE DAY'S TRIP TO THE SEA OF Galilee was most interesting, past stony hillsides with built up narrow ledges of soil planted with olive trees, wheat and grape vines; the wider plain of Esdraelon and the white stone village of Nazareth climbing up to the top of the hill. We stopped for a drink at Jacobs well; and the well at Nazareth, which is without doubt the well from which the Holy family secured its water because it is and always has been the only well in the village. The Sea of Galilee was beautiful in color and in its setting of hills and mountains but everything was well burned up in the mid-summer heat and dryness. Practically all of the towns and cities that were busy centers in Christ's day are gone now as the trade routes of the world have changed. We walked around in the excavated ruins of the Synagogue at Capernaum and perhaps walked over the very stones where Jesus walked. I enjoyed going down David Street in the Old City past tiny shops where anything and everything was sold and where there was a constant stream of people in interesting costumes.

"OF COURSE, YOU HAD TO MIND your way down this steep street as you were jostled about by men and boys carrying baskets and heavy loads on their backs, and water carriers, heavy laden donkeys, flocks of sheep or goats and remember all this in a street about 12 feet wide. In the wider streets you had to contend with the camels as well. I went adventuring into many strange and interesting corners with my New Zealand, English and Australian friends. I have learned many new words from their vocabularies. I now order a "lemon squash" when I want an American lemonade; "lemonade" when I want lemon pop; "biscuit" for a cookie and "scones" for baking powder biscuits. I talk to the "sisters" who are trained nurses and greatly admire the "lads" and "lassies" who have seen service in Greece and Crete. Their spirit is truly wonderful! One fine looking young New Zealand lad, who called for one of the sisters at the Y. W. C. A. Hostel was telling us a little about it all. He lost all of his equipment, clothes, except what he wore out of Greece. He said with a charming smile he did not have to worry about what to wear while in Crete fighting in the trenches. In the morning all they had to do was to wipe the dirt out of their eyes, straighten their tin helmets and they were ready for the day. They don't talk much about the horrible experience", yet you know they have had them.

"TOWARD THE LAST OF MY TWO and one half weeks stay in Jerusalem there were two day-light air raid alert signals and one in the early hours of the morning when I was fast asleep. The signals awakened me that night, but while I was wondering if I should get up and what I would do if I got up I went back to sleep. There are no real air raid shelters near though there was a splinter shelter and most of the windows are covered with wire mesh or tape to protect the people from flying glass. The real air raid that night was in Tel Aviv where we had been the day before for a glorious swim in the Mediterranean.

"Miss Jean Begg who has charge of all British Y. W. C. A. War Service was over in Jerusalem and wanted me to go on over to Egypt and help there until my boat came. With a letter from her appointing me a member of the British Y. W. C. A. War Service Staff, I quickly secured my Egyptian visas and was ready to come over ahead of the group. There is now a group of 170 Americans wanting to get to America of which number 70 are about to get off to Egypt.

There is a special committee working with the consulate to look after this group."

THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN in Cairo: "Miss Begg met me in Kantara and we were through the customs in a twinkling with her friend the Captain's help. We drove in the Y. W. C. A. Service car to Ismailia where a most friendly Hostel for all women in uniform has been filled to capacity since it opened last January. The next morning we drove along the Suez Canal, saw where holes had been made in the road and quickly repaired and on up to Port Said where another Hostel with a capacity of 40 is almost ready to open. The next day we drove to Cairo, past miles of tents and hospitals, stopped at the Y. W. C. A. desert hut at Tahag for tea. What relief it was to step inside the hut, really a brick building most attractively furnished and delightfully cool and refreshing especially after the heat and glare of the desert. We arrived in Cairo that evening at the bewitching hour of sunset and went on out to another Y. W. C. A. Hostel for Sisters. "The Lotus", a House Boat on the Nile. The use of this boat was given with all its equipment including the servants to run it by an Egyptian gentleman who is deeply interested in the welfare of the young women who have come from England, Australia and New Zealand by the hundreds to nurse the soldiers. The House Boat has room for 40 guests in single and double rooms, hot and cold water in each cabin, attractive lounge and dining room and a delicious breeze that travels up and down the Nile that you can only appreciate after being out in the sun in this hot country. These Y. W. C. A. Hostels under the efficient and energetic Miss Begg are really a Godsend to the Sisters who come for a few hours off duty to a fortnight leave and can relax in a friendly clean home like atmosphere. Of course I can't tell when I will leave here. However, before you know it I feel I will be greeting you again in the U. S. A."

ONE OF THE INTERESTING RESIDENTS of Peking, China, is Miss Helen Burton, a former North Dakota girl who has built up a large business in Oriental art goods in the ancient Chinese city. Miss Burton was born in Grand Forks county, but lived in the county only a short time. Her sister, Mrs. Samuel H. Merritt of Bismarck, writes Miss Beatrice Johnstone that Helen Burton was born at Hegton, a Grand Forks county postoffice which has been discontinued. Her father was C. A. Burton, a former county superintendent of schools in this county. When Helen was very small the family moved to Fort Stevenson, near the present Fort Berthold, where Mr. Burton was superintendent of the Indian school there. Later the family moved to Bismarck, where Helen graduated from the high school. Later she attended Oberlin, and still later she was graduated from the University of Colorado. She visited her sister in Bismarck last year, and an account of her remarkable business career was published in this column about that time.

WHENCE AND WHITHER? WHERE did the toads come from, and where did they go? One night last week toads were so thick on some of the Grand Forks streets that it was practically impossible to walk without stepping on them. Next night, with identical weather conditions, not a toad was to be seen on those same streets nor were any in evidence on lawns and in gardens near by. They disappeared as suddenly as they had appeared.

A BELIEF THAT HAS BEEN RATHER widely held is that toads and frogs often come down with the rain. Of course a tornado may pick up heavy objects and carry them great distances when they return to earth, often in the downpour of rain which usually follows a tornado. Water may be sucked up from a lake or pond, and with toads, frogs and fish, which, sometime and somewhere must come down. There is just that much basis for the belief that toads and frogs "rain down."

BARRING THOSE RARE INSTANCES, however, the old notion may be dismissed as a superstition. There remains considerable mystery surrounding the appearance of toads or frogs in countless numbers immediately after a heavy shower. That phenomenon is a fairly familiar one. The toads were hatched in the ordinary course in streams or ponds and there passed through the pollywog stage. Then they developed legs and began to hop. But at a given moment and in a given area there was not a toad to be seen. Then, after a few minutes' rain the ground was literally covered with them. They had been somewhere, but where was it? It isn't strange that people thought they had come down with the rain.

ANOTHER EXPLODED THEORY IS that one may "catch" warts by handling toads. Probably that notion arose from the fact that the backs of many toads look warty, though they are not. Still another ancient belief is that the toad has a jewel in his head. Shakespeare refers to this superstition in "As You Like It," making the old duke say: "Sweet are the uses of advertisy; Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

JUDGED BY MOST STANDARDS THE toad is far from handsome. But he is not venomous. He is not only harmless, but exceedingly useful, for he lives chiefly on insects, and a few toads will help materially in keeping a garden free of pests. But, harmless and useful as the toad is, I don't like him, and I have no desire to cultivate his acquaintance.

A SANDIEGO PAPER RECEIVED here has a portrait of Commander C. L. Tomkins, formerly of Grand Forks, whose death was announced recently in the Herald. The paper, in announcing funeral services, gives the following details:

"Comdr. Tomkins was admitted to naval hospital in February after a heart attack. He was born at Port Colborne, Ont., and attended Woodstock college. He came to the United States in 1897 and settled at Grand Forks, N. D. He attended Keokuk Medical college, which is now part of Drake university, and practiced dentistry in Grand Forks for 16 years.

"He received his naval commission in 1918. He was a member of the American Dental society and a Mason. For the last four years, he had been at the naval training station. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Jessie D. Tomkins, of 1038 Le Roy street; a daughter, Mrs. Lora Vernon; two sons, James F. and Lewis G. Tomkins, and two grandchildren."

IN THE FOLLOWING LETTER PROFESSOR Henry E. Haxo, of the department of romance languages at the University of North Dakota, discusses some phases of the modern language problem which should be of interest to many readers just at this time:

"BEING A MODERN LANGUAGE teacher your recent comments on the value of Spanish, Portuguese and Esperanto to America were of particular interest to me. Similarity in language is undoubtedly a desirable thing in helping individuals of different nationalities to understand and appreciate each other, especially in business and travel. Yet its importance should not be overestimated. Some of the bloodiest conflicts in history have arisen in countries where the people conversed in the same tongue. An international language is no panacea for the ills of the world and will leave human relations pretty much as they are unless good will, toleration, charity and justice are more diligently practised by the whole world.

"THE ADOPTION OR SELECTION OF one of the many existing languages, for international relations, has been the cause of endless controversies. Students of the subject do not agree which one it ought to be. Some advocate one dead language (Latin) or some living language (English, French or a combination of English and French. Others advocate one or another artificial language (Volapuk, Esperanto or Ido). On the other hand, some scholars argue in favor of two world languages (English and French), while others insist that there is no need for a universal language and that there can be no world language, because the vocal organs of different races are so different that a language will change too greatly for the races using it to understand it.

"OF ALL THE PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL international languages Esperanto invented by Dr. Zantenhof in 1887 has the greatest popularity. Dr. Zamenhof, a Russian, was a physician, linguist and humanitarian, but also a first-rate propagandist. His disciples today still share his boundless enthusiasm and assume the role of crusaders and missionaries. In their opinion Esperanto is a boom to humanity, the key to world peace. However, languages have their strong and weak points, including Esperanto. Zamenhof boasted that the acquisition of Esperanto the mere light amusement of a few days and that his grammar can be learned perfectly in one hour! In actual practice this claim is not consistently born out.

"PROGRESS IN A LANGUAGE, NATURAL or artificial, depends largely on the ability of both students and teachers. It takes a considerable amount of application and interest to secure the mastery of a simple tongue. It takes time, indeed, to learn how to read, write, understand and speak Esperanto with facility and fluency. Lastly, certain features in Esperanto have been censured by various critics, as for instance, some of its sounds, its five supersigned letters, its suffix system for word formation and its vocabulary which lacks absolute internationality (Oriental races). These may be slight shortcomings, but they count just the same.

"ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGES ARE DISTINCTLY European products. On a continent, where forty-odd languages are spoken, it is only natural that the adoption of an auxiliary language should be advocated and fostered. In the western hemisphere, however, where English and Spanish alone are prominent, the use of an auxiliary language is not essential.

"THE CASE FOR SPANISH IN THE United States is different. Our government has recognized the necessity of learning one or more of the languages of other countries, and Spanish, of course, is one of them. On various occasions statesmen, businessmen, engineers and journalists have stressed its importance commercially and culturally. George Bernard Shaw even declared that Spanish is perhaps the best substitute for Latin in modern education.

"THE PAN-AMERICAN UNION AT Washington has done for years gratifying work in the promotion of better relations among American republics, and the recently organized Division of Cultural Relations of the department of state is bending all its efforts toward the same end. In order to encourage further closer contacts, exchange scholarships and professorships have been established between Latin American universities and our own. At this particular point it must be recalled that our University of North Dakota was a pioneer when it created a successful interchange of scholarships for the year 1921-22 with the University of Buenos Aires, in which four young men participated. Only recently it has come to my notice that certain private agencies are urging our young people to settle in South America.

"LATIN AMERICA MAKES A STRONG appeal, indeed, to youthful minds in our schools and colleges, because of the common ties it shares with us, as for instance, its love for freedom and independence, its economic life and its great accessibility. This appeal is reflected in the generous enrolments in Spanish everywhere in the country. Moreover, Spanish offers decided advantages to the learners. It is easy to acquire and is pronounced practically the way it is written; it can be heard almost at any hour of the day over the radio. What a golden opportunity for the ambitious student! Taken all in all, Spanish is a living, progressive language! An artificial language cannot possibly take its place on our

continent."

WHEN NUMEROUS BASEMENTS, especially in the South End of the city, were flooded during recent rain storms, several persons have asked: "What's the matter with that storm sewer that was supposed to take care of the surface water?" There seems to have been a rather general impression that such a sewer was constructed about two years ago, and people couldn't understand why it wasn't working.

Making inquiry about this I was told by the city engineer that there is no storm sewer, as supposed. Three years ago, said Mr. Hulteng, plans were prepared for a storm sewer which would take care of the surface water throughout the southern district. The work on this was to be performed by WPA labor, and all arrangements had been made for the work to begin. But just before the date set for starting the work WPA labor was severely curtailed, and no such labor was available for that job. That is why the storm sewer has not got beyond the blueprint stage. The plans as originally prepared are on file in the engineer's office, awaiting a favorable opportunity to begin the work.

IN LEVEL TERRITORY SUCH AS ours the disposal of storm water presents a real problem. Inclination of the surface is so slight that there is little surface runoff other than to the sewers, and the sewers themselves must be so nearly level that the current in them is relatively slow. Hence a very heavy rain is likely to fill them to capacity, clear up to street level. When that happens there is pressure toward all lower basement openings, and flooding is inevitable unless prevented by some form of plugging.

OVERLOADING OF SEWERS IS A condition which is bound to increase with increased population. During the past several years the city has expanded greatly toward the southwest, and scores of new homes are now served by the sewers. Those are ample for all sanitary purposes, but when we get two inches of rain in an hour they just will not carry the load. New paving has increased the complications, as the water runs more quickly to the sewer from a paved street than from one that is not paved.

RESIDENCE SEWERS ARE OFTEN equipped with valves which are intended to prevent backing up from the mains. There may be some such valves that work. Mine doesn't. In the first cloud burst after it was installed I had two feet of water in the basement, and that would have been repeated on every similar occasion if I hadn't kept the drains plugged, which I do whenever it looks like rain. The valve is well made and looks efficient and expensive. It was expensive, all right, but I can't depend on it. To anyone about to build I offer the suggestion: Put not your trust in valves —without a guarantee that they will work.

THE OTHER DAY IT SEEMED THAT all the toads had left my neighborhood, and I wondered where they had gone. I am informed that they went out to the University, whether in pursuit of learning or of food I do not know. I am told, too, that at the University they are all going west, whereas down town somebody said that they all hopped north and they couldn't be persuaded to go in any other direction.

A YEAR OR SO AGO THEY STARTED to reconstruct the avenue entrance to the postoffice. Some of the old material was removed, then things came to a standstill, and the door was barricaded, as I recall, for months. Presently they got a door in, and the entrance was used. Then they had to do it all over again, and that job has been in progress for weeks. About the time that the second spasm of work on that doorway was begun local contractors began remodeling the entire first floor of the Red River National bank building, a job which included, among other things, the building of a new vault and the razing of the old one. In the race between the rebuilding of the bank and the reconstruction of a post-office doorway, which will win? I'm betting on the bank.

SOMEBODY HAS NOTICED THAT whenever there is a big crop there is a lot of bar crop weather. It isn't hard to figure that out. For a good crop there must be plenty of rain. That means frequent showers. But frequent showers are generally developed by heat, and that means that a good many of the showers are apt to be too heavy and accompanied by wind, lightning and hail. And there you are.

WHEN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS made of restrictions on the manufacture of silk for ordinary commercial purposes there was a grand rush of women to the big stores to buy silk stockings. In order to prevent hoarding some of the stores have restricted purchases to one pair of stockings per person. Now that the first rush is over it appears that those who were so eager to lay in big stocks may have fooled themselves.

In the first place, I am told that the silk in stockings deteriorates greatly even if not worn, so that those who have bought for a long time in advance are likely some time hence to find their "new" hose dropping to pieces. Also, the factor of patriotic sentiment enters in. The government needs silk for certain defense purposes. The patriotic American is willing to make sacrifices in order to assist the government. Some months hence what woman will dare to appear in public with her legs encased in silk when all her neighbors are wearing cotton?

ONE OF THE CURIOUS DEVELOPMENTS of this war is the fact that German mail bags are being used for the transportation of British official dispatches. Among the effects of a passenger arriving in New York the other day on the plane from Bermuda were two red bags plainly stamped "Deutsche Reichspost." But their tags were marked "On His Britannic Majesty's Service." The passenger was a courier in the service of the British government, and the bags contained dispatches for British diplomatic officials on this side. With other material they had been captured in a raid, and they were being used in the kind of service for which they were originally intended, but in the hands of different people.

A YOUNG ENGLISH FARMER TRIED to get into the R. A. F., but was rejected on medical grounds, but when the examiners learned that he regularly drove a truck to market to deliver the pigs which he raised they inducted him as a truck driver and put him to work at that job. But the pig industry on that farm, left in charge of the young man's mother, slumped, and the output declined 40 per cent. Then the authorities sent the young man back to the farm and told him to keep on raising pigs. They could get plenty of truck drivers, but men who could make a success of raising pigs were not so numerous.

LAST MONDAY NIGHT WAS THE night on which we were to expect the annual August shower of meteors, but I haven't seen an account of any unusual display. A farmer in Georgia did the best he could by plowing up a 1,760 pound meteorite in his field. This is said to be the fifth largest meteorite in the government's collection. The rock, however, is not more than remotely related to modern meteoric showers, as scientists estimate its age to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 million years.

AS SPECTACLES MOST OF THOSE meteoric showers are disappointing. I have seen many of them, but not one that could reasonably be called a "shower." The shooting stars might come at intervals varying from a minute to an hour—interesting, but scarcely exciting. One reads, however, of real showers that have occurred once in a long time, when many of the celestial fragments would be in the air at the same time and the brilliant light from them would be continuous. A spectacle of that sort would be worth watching.

A NEW HAMPSHIRE AUCTIONEER held up a bucksaw which he was offering for sale. "During my years of auctioneering," he said, "I have never sold a bucksaw to a man. It is always bid in by a woman. The men buy easy chairs. How much am I bid?" The saw finally went for 45 cents—to a woman.

**ONE OF THE BEST OF THE NEW BOOKS** that I have read is "The Keys of the Kingdom," by Dr. A. J. Cronin. It is the story in fiction, of Father Chisholm, of his experiences as a boy and young man in his native Scotland, and then of his long years as a missionary in China. The book is marked by keen analysis, striking description and quotable passages. One of its episodes has appealed to me with special force. Father Chisholm's mission is in an area of China that is dominated by Wai, a local "war lord," a brutal bandit of the worst type, to whom the helpless inhabitants pay tribute as insurance against pillage and murder. General Naian, another war lord of more moderate type, seeks to overthrow Wai and succeed him, and there is war between the two factions. Father Chisholm, a man of peace, does not wish his people to be dragged into the conflict. They are peaceful, industrious, and wish only to be left alone. Chisholm commands them to come within the brick walls of the mission compound and let the rivals fight it out. But Wai mounts a big gun on an eminence which commands both the mission and the position of his rival Naian, and Naian has no weapon of equal power. Chisholm faces the prospect of Wai's complete victory, and of his people being subjected to redoubled terrorism. In desperation he seeks the aid of one of Naian's officers, and by means of a subterfuge, the two are able to place explosives beneath the big gun, and with his own hand Chisholm hurls the torch that explodes the charge, destroys the gun and kills the score of men who are in charge of it.

**THAT IS BUT THE BABE OUTLINE OF** one of the thrilling episodes in the book. With consummate skill the author has traced the conflict within the priest's soul between his passionate desire for peace and his acceptance of the fact that ultimate peace may call for an immediate act of violence. The author does not point the moral, but the moral is there, plain and unescapable, inherent in the tragic facts.

**WITH MANY OTHERS I HAVE REGARDED** with sincere regret the conditions which seemed to make it necessary to authorize extension *of* the term of service of military trainees beyond the period of their enlistment. But, unfortunate as that situation seems to be, it would have been still more unfortunate if the bill providing for that extension had been defeated in congress. Its defeat would have been interpreted in many quarters as notice to the world that the nation is not sincere or united in support of its defense program. The senate bill, slightly amended in the house, was passed in the latter body by the narrow vote of 203 to 202. If, on receiving the bill back from the house, the senate had not accepted the amendments, the measure would have gone to conference, and the conference report must then have been accepted by both houses or the bill would have been dead. Rather than run the risk of an adverse vote in the house administration leaders in the senate moved for concurrence in the house amendments and the bill was passed.

**THOSE ISOLATIONISTS WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY** opposed co-operation with Great Britain in her conflict with Hitler and Hitlerism are finding something exceedingly sinister in the secret conference between President Roosevelt and Premier Churchill. They say the fact that the meeting was secret and that congress had not been consulted concerning it or the views there to be presented is a flat rejection of the basic principles of democracy. Hitler, as a representative of the Nazi philosophy, is the enemy of the United States, and this nation is his enemy. The welfare of this nation demands the destruction of the thing which he represents, and he has left no choice other than force for the achievement of that end. And, if charged with like responsibility, not an isolationist of the lot would commit the infantile folly of notifying the enemy in advance of the means which are to be employed for his destruction.

**SOME CRITICS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT** issued by Roosevelt and Churchill have said that in subscribing to that statement President Roosevelt has pledged the United States to insure democracy and its blessings to all the world, and to launch itself upon a grand military crusade for that purpose. Apparently they have not read the document carefully. Each of the eight clauses expresses a hope or a desire, and there is no syllable in it that pledges any specific action.

**IN THAT DECLARATION THE TWO LEADERS** say that their respective nations desire aggrandizement, territorial or other; that they desire no territorial changes that do not accord with the wishes of those affected; that they respect rights of self-government and wish those rights to be restored; that they will endeavor to further the enjoyment by all states of equality of economic opportunity; that they desire to bring about international co-operation for improved economic and social standards; that they hope to see established a just and enduring peace; that the seas should be open to all without hinderance; and that "they believe" that the world must abandon the use of force, and that unruly aggressor nations must be disarmed.

The statement describes in brief the kind of world which it is believed ought to exist, and toward whose building the two nations are working. But there is no pledge as to the means to be employed for that purpose.

WHETHER MOST OF THE TOADS that were so much in evidence a short time ago have moved to other localities or gone into hiding, they have practically disappeared from districts in which they were recently so numerous, and reports are received of the appearance of toads in other localities where they were not formerly noticed. They can't very well be the same toads, for at their maximum rate of travel they could n't have covered so much ground in so short a time. In the following letter M. T. Cummings, park superintendent of Drayton, N. D., discusses the subject of toads from the standpoint of his own observations:

"I HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST your observations anent the recent epidemic of toads. I have heard my parents tell of a similar visitation of what they called "water dogs", no doubt they were polliwogs or tadpoles, and their presence was due to the same causes that made the toads in such obvious abundance : "n Grand Forks after a recent rain. My parents, with other early settlers, held to the popular theory that these "water dogs" had rained down. This theory is all too fantastic to a student of natural history. In searching for a more satisfactory explanation let us take into account a few relevant facts. There is much peat in the soil of North Dakota. There is as much or more in the soil of Ireland. There are no frogs, toads or snakes in Ireland. Some ascribe this to the ministrations of St. Patrick. This would hardly explain the almost total absence of snakes in North Dakota.

"BUT BACK TO THE TOADS. AS WE have seen our soil is heavily alkaline. In times of abundant rain fall the alkali is held in solution and carried into the lower subsoil by percolation. This leaves the surface soil relatively neutral. Then we have, as we have had for six weeks, a ; protracted dry spell. During this time the subsoil moisture is carried to the surface by capillarity. Reaching the surface the water evaporates but alkali, being non volatile, is left behind impounded in the top soil. Now let there come a copious rain. The water picks up and is seen heavily saturated with this abundant alkali. The toads are soon in distress and begin to hop about leaving their seclusion under roots and stones and the shelter of foundation walls and come out into the open air to cool off. Likewise the earth worms find themselves in trouble and they too crawl out and drag themselves about in profusion to escape their too alkaline bath. Snakes, if there are any, crawl out to "sun themselves" and escape the alkali.

"AND JUST HERE, THE BOTANIST must step into the picture. Trees as well as reptiles are victims of this quick abundant alkali saturation. Professor Asa Gray in his Manual of Botany says that "moisture enters the roots of plants either as vapor or as water, probably the former." I seem to have discovered that it enters as water. Called to arrest the decay of a natural park I took chips from a dying tree and soaked them in distilled water. The ooze gave back an alkaline reaction to litmus paper. Natural sap is neutral. Hence I concluded the alkali entered the tree with the water it took up. If the moisture entered the tree in the form of vapor the alkali would have been left behind."

**A GLEAM WAS GIVEN TO THE  
BROACH. By Flora Cameron Burr.**

There was a land called, Scotia,  
She was of elder hours  
When Tyre first spun her purple  
And Babylon hung her flowers.  
The Noble Roman wrote her  
As, "Calendonian Strand,  
The only spot where freemen  
Alone keep free their land."

Then come the hordes of Teutons, The fleeing Roman slaves  
To make of Cambria's valleys One awful realm of  
graves.

There was a land called Scotia— She dares them to encroach  
Where every plaided clansman Holds dear the  
fiery broach; Where heath and hearth are sacred;  
Free ancient courts and land; The only spot where freemen  
Kiss no imperial hand.

Less watchful grow the tartans, ( 'Tis thus that nations fall),  
A laughing, loving people On heath and in the  
hall. The wily foe is lurking By altar and the hearth—  
To think a land like Scotland Should perish from the  
earth!

What tho the Gael and Sassanach Go down in death together,  
There'll be O Earth forever A sobbing on the  
heather. The Saxon joins his kinsfolk Whom once he did desert,  
But where in bartered birthright Is healing for  
the hurt!

Not you who sell your birthright;  
Not you who sell your souls,  
But you, the patriotic  
Whom Honor yet controls;  
Shades of the gallant Spartans  
Who met Thermopolae  
And every Hebrew soldier  
Who fell a "Maccabee;  
You banshea by the Bannock;  
You wraiths who weep Culloden;  
Brave of the bravest, Finland,  
The torn and the downtrodden;

Erin's long line of martyrs With Eamon's watchful band; Spirit of Kosciusko, O you will understand:  
There was a land called Scotia—  
She was my native land.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE RE moval to another site a big house in the vicinity of White Plains, N. Y., was cut into three sections, to be moved on heavy trucks. Slipping from its trucks the middle section landed on its side and resisted efforts to remount it. The movers got skits under it, lubricated the pavement with soft soap and slid it the remaining 800 feet of its journey.

I suppose soft soap is still being made somewhere, though haven't seen any of it for many years. Long ago making soft soap was one of the regular routine activities of the eastern farm. The process is quite simple. Lye obtained by leaching wood ashes is boiled with fat which has been accumulated for that purpose, and if the proportions are right the result is a rather stringy mass of about the consistency of thin jelly. It has powerful cleansing properties, but is hard on the hands and on delicate fabrics. It was used regularly in such operations as scrubbing floors and cleansing kettles and other utensils.

ON MY OWN FARM, WITH ONLY A vague recollection of the method of operation, I once made a batch of soft soap. I made a leach similar to those that I had seen, and in time collected about a barrel of lye. Scraps of fat were tried out until a large quantity had been accumulated. Then lye and fat were placed in a big kettle over an outdoor fire and brought to a boil. When it seemed about time for the mess to be done it was allowed to cool in the expectation that it would be soap. But it wasn't. It was just a thin liquid that looked like dark brown water. Puzzled, I began to experiment. I put a cupful of the stuff in a tin can, added more lye, and cooked it, but it didn't make soap. Then I tried adding more grease. No soap! Accidentally I dumped two or three cups of water into a can containing about a cup of the soap mixture, and immediately it began to jell. What it needed was more water. I had about a barrel of the base compound, to which it was only necessary to add three or four barrels of water to make soap. We could get along nicely with only one barrel of soap, or less, but we were able to supply the neighbors for miles around.

SOME OF THE EASTERN HOUSEwives had ways of turning the soft soap into hard. I never learned the process, but I know that in some cases rosin was added, and probably other ingredients. Then there were the little soap factories which were tucked away here and there in the woods. Often these little plants made their own lye from ashes left from the burning of large quantities of wood in the clearing of land. In addition teams made the rounds of the countryside collecting ashes from the farms, for which they exchanged the yellow bar soap made at the plant

N. R. M'DONALD, WHO WRITES that his hobby is paleontology and general geology, discusses the toad phenomenon as follows:

"YOU ASK, whence and whether. Where did the toads come from and where did they go? My observations and investigations have taught me the following:

Toads and frogs are oviparous amphibians and can be traced back to the age of the herb and flesh eating dinosauris which roamed the planes of Montana and Wyoming 60 million years ago or more, long before man separated himself from the (slime and ooze) sperm and ovum of the ocean and wiggled his anatomy across the strand. Please don't misunderstand me. I am not trying to work up a relationship between toads, frogs, apes, oranges, gorillas and man, but rather, that the apes, gorillas, toads and frogs, etc., are divergent branches derived from the same parent stock from which man himself has sprung, the same as those of all other dead or living organism.

"Therefor, we do know that toads produce pollywogs, and in turn pollywogs produce toads. The sperm and ovum are as a rule deposited In sloughs and shallow fresh water. When it rains a sufficient amount of water, the sloughs and low places overflow and the water (in North Dakota) finds its way into road ditches and other channels carrying with it, sperm, ovum, pollywogs, and millions of matured and immatured toads and frogs. They find their way to the wide open spaces, the roads and fields in search of something to eat. Finally, owing to the fact that they cannot live but a few hours under the scorching rays of the sun they seek shelter. The result is, in the due course of time they die and their anatomy goes back to the silent dust only to take their place in the endless chain of evolution.

LITTLE EVA IS DEAD. SOME OF US have witnessed the death of little Eva several times, and there are many eyes, now grown dim with age, which have become misty, and wrinkled cheeks down which tears have run, as little Eva drew her last breath. We have shared the sorrow of Uncle Tom, and Topsy, and Miss Ophelia, as the child closed her eyes in her last sleep—for that evening. A grand old melodrama was "Uncle Tom's Cabin," full of impossibilities, but touching sympathetic natures in their tenderest spots. The death of little Eva touched the hearts of millions, but now the original little Eva is dead, for good.

AT THE AGE OF 93 MRS. CORDELIA Howard MacDonald died in Boston last week. It was she who, at the age of 4, gave the first stage portrayal of Mrs. Stowe's famous child character in the original dramatized version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." That was in 1852.

GEORGE C. HOWARD, MRS. MACDONALD's father, who was at that time lessee of a theatre in Troy, N. Y., and owner of the company that played there. Mrs. Stowe's book had just been published and had swept the country. Howard recognized its dramatic possibilities, and he saw in Eva an opportunity for his little girl, Cordelia. Dramatic rights to the story had not been reserved, and Howard turned over to George L. Aiken, a cousin and actor in his company, the job of preparing a stage version of the story. Thus Aiken produced the original script of a play that was to be a sensational success.

HOWARD'S COMPANY PRODUCED the play in the Troy theatre, and it was an instant hit. The company was pretty much of a family affair. The part of Eva was given to little Cordelia, and Howard himself played St. Clair, father of Eva. Mrs. Howard played Topsy; Aiken played George Harris and doubled in the character of George Shelby; Cordelia's uncle, George Fox, was the Phineas Fletcher and doubled as Gumption Cute; and her grandmother had the role of Miss Ophelia.

Cordelia Howard played Little Eva for eight years and retired permanently from the stage at the age of 12, later marrying a Cambridge business man. Because of her connection with the first "Uncle Tom" play she was often importuned to reappear in it, but she always declined, saying that she had never had a desire to return to the stage except as a member of the audience. In that capacity she often witnessed the play, in which she never lost interest. In 1933, when the play was revived with Otis Skinner and Queenie Smith in the principal roles, Miss MacDonald occupied a box seat. It must have been an interesting experience to her to look back over those eighty years that had elapsed since she first thrilled an audience with a child impersonation.

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE play "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was played seriously, and was as seriously received by the public. Later both presentation and reception degenerated. The play became the vehicle for clowning, and it came to be received by the public as a more or less entertaining farce. In some versions both script and story were doctored so as to emphasize the farcical elements. Marks, the lawyer, and his donkey became more prominent than Uncle Tom himself. Great Danes and mastiffs were featured in the parades as the "bloodhounds" that chased Eliza across the ice. In one version, in order that the audience might have its fill of absurdities there were shown two Topseys and two Markses.

MANY OF THE OLDER ACTORS who later became famous played in "Uncle Tom's Cabin." I suppose more road companies have toured with that play than with any other. But as the serious reputation of the play diminished, actors became chary of association with it, and the fact that one was a "Tommer" is something that many a modern actor would like to have erased from his record. The play has long been in storage, and it is not likely ever to be seen on the road again except, possibly, as a demonstration of what one was, but is no more.

LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE ISOLATIONIST activities of Senator Wheeler of Montana and Senator Nye of North Dakota there has been created in many quarters, especially in the east, that prevailing sentiment in these two states is opposed to American aid of any kind to Great Britain in her war with Germany and is sympathetic toward Hitler and his Nazi program. In order to ascertain to what extent the two senators represent the actual sentiment of their respective states the New York Post sent one of its experienced correspondents, John Miller, to make a tour of both states and talk with the people right on the ground. The results of that investigation are published in three special articles in the Post, beginning August 13. Introducing the series, Mr. Miller writes:

A TOUR OF NORTH DAKOTA AND Montana, covering all the major towns, typical farm areas and the stock country, convinces me that Sens. Nye and Wheeler speak largely for themselves on the defense issue.

"I am also convinced the people of both states will support any steps taken by the Washington government, whether it be called non-belligerency, acts short of war, or outright military intervention. I am convinced of this, in spite of assertions by both senators, the turn against Roosevelt in the last election, and some national polls.

"I believe this opinion represents what people in both states feel, regardless of what some may say when put on the spot by a direct or even indirect question.

"THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE is too crucial, perhaps too sinister, for easy or spontaneous expression. The average person is obviously reluctant to accept even the implications of war until faced with an actual situation. This may explain what I have found and what some polls have found. It explains why it may be impossible to find, by questionnaires, the answer to what people will do under pressure and in time of crisis. In contrast to such normal matters as elections, it is doubtful whether people know the answer to questions on national defense until the actual circumstances hit them.

"THERE WERE DOUBTS AND RESERVATIONS all along the line in North Dakota, colored to some extent by pressing home problems, for this drought region is still in a state of deep depression. Nevertheless, the average North Dakotan, far from being an isolationist, feels that Hitler must be stopped, for the sake of plain human living as well as for eventual national defense.

"He also feels that the administration is doing its best to cope with the situation, and that despite shortcomings of one sort or another, of which all complain, the defense of this country is in cautious hands."

CONCERNING SENATOR NYE MR Miller makes the following comment:

"Sen. Nye may be a national figure as an isolationist, but he is not a prophet in his home state. He is generally disliked for a number of reasons: for having done nothing for his state; for keeping aloof from the terribly vital problems that have beset the people of North Dakota these last dozen years; and for trying to make a national reputation for himself in the face of state needs and feelings.

"APART FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE issue, he is generally disliked for traipsing about the country "shooting off his mouth," instead of getting down to the business for which he was sent back to the senate. It is significant that the growing national reputation of Nye has had a boomerang effect in his bailiwick. His re-election, two years ago, is now generally explained as a protest vote against his opponent, Ex-Gov. Langer, previously indicted by the federal government for misappropriation of public funds.

"ON THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUE Sen. Nye is bitterly resented by a large element of the people. This feeling is so intense it is usually expressed in good western cussing. They feel he has made a good thing for himself out of isolationism, as he did out of the munitions issue, by posing as a great humanitarian.

"This resentment against the senator is widespread, covering townsmen and farmers alike, and it is spreading as the war issue becomes more acute.

"Sen. Nye is in danger of being the spokesman of an ethnic minority, and perhaps of becoming a preacher without a flock in his own parish."

OF SENTIMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA as a whole Mr. Miller writes:

"As in other states of the Middle and North West, isolationism is not a regional phenomenon. It is a matter of people and their backgrounds. Remoteness from centers of information or from the seaboard is no longer a barrier. The people of this region are as wide awake to national and world affairs as people elsewhere, and perhaps more so than the people of the South. Isolationist feeling in this state is largely an ethnic phenomenon.

"Other elements, particularly the older American element, thus feel betrayed by Sen. Nye in a double sense: for not speaking the mind of the majority of the people of the state, and for having become a mouthpiece for the enemy."

AN OLD NEWSPAPER, IF SUFFICIENTLY old, is both a source of entertainment and a mine of information for one who has time to examine it and to compare the habits and ways of life of the time in which it was published with those of the present. I have just been glancing through two old papers, the property of Mrs. Win Mitchell, of Minto, which appear to have remained for many years among the effects of the Minto Journal, the newspaper long published by the Mitchell family. One of these is the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, published by the Seven Day Advent Publishing association at Battle Creek, Mich. This copy is dated August 23, 1864, and most of its contents are devoted to exposition of Adventist beliefs and to reports of meetings held by lectures in various parts of the country. But there are also articles reflecting customs and attitudes which have changed materially.

ONE CORRESPONDENT WRITES OF having attended a Methodist meeting, and he contrasts some of the customs observed with those of 40 years earlier. He tells of one of those earlier meetings where "all bonnets were alike in form and color; how plain and simple, yet beautiful; so natural and useful; nothing about them gay, and nothing needless." But in 40 years "all peculiarities of dress have passed away, and I can distinguish no one as a Methodist by hat or bonnet, by coat or shawl." Things were not as they used to be.

OF THE SERMON THE CORRESPONDENT writes:

"I am all attention, for the pastor is a very eloquent man. He has just prayed that the sermon might come direct from the mouth of God, and from my heart I said amen; but what was my disappointment to find that it was not even to come direct from the mouth of man, as every word lay written on the desk . . . He read a sermon, good as Wesley's, but no better, and I felt that I might as well be at home with a volume of Wesley in my hand."

THERE HAD BEEN A CONVENTION of spiritualists in Chicago, and an article in the little paper on that subject describes the convention as having ended in smoke. Clearly the paper had no use for spiritualism. There is quoted a paragraph from the Chicago Tribune's "news" report of the convention which might be interesting to those who insist that modern newspapers color their news. The Tribune winds up its "impartial" report thus:

MAY THE WHOLE FLOCK OF SPIRITUALISTS, harmonialists, spirits, bloomers, strong-minded women and weak-minded men continue elsewhere and ever, and as in this their recent convention in this city, to supply the best correctives to their vagaries by the absurdities and follies which overload their few grains of reason and common sense."

Imagine a newspaper of today reporting a meeting in that fashion.

BY WAY OF CONTRAST THE OTHER paper is a spiritualist publication, the Banner of Light, published in Boston, date, May 20, 1865. One page of the paper is devoted to a series of questions and answers, the questions being asked by persons wishing to communicate with those in the spirit world, and the answers being those given by the spirits.

IN A COLUMN OF MISCELLANEOUS paragraphs there are items which carry one's thoughts back to the days of the Civil war and those immediately following. A brief paragraph tells of the burial of Abraham Lincoln at Springfield. Charles Sumner was to deliver an oration on Lincoln at Springfield. The gold dollar was worth only 30 cents more than the dollar greenback. It had been worth three times the value of the greenback. It had been proposed to commemorate the next Fourth of July by laying the corner stone of the monument at the national cemetery at Gettysburg. General Rosecrans denied that he had been recruiting soldiers for the Mexican republic. Civil war soldiers were being mustered out. Hope was expressed that now that the war was over, commodity prices would soon decline so that men could again support families at reasonable rates.

**ONE SUGGESTION THAT HAS BEEN** made as a means of dealing with the gasoline shortage on the eastern coast is to have prices advanced as demand exceeds supply. Under the plan a check would be made of sales day by day, and if the volume of sales increases the price would be advanced accordingly. This, say proponents of the plan, would automatically check consumption all along the line. The trouble with that plan, as I see it, is that it would tend to restrict consumption where the use of gasoline is necessary without affecting greatly its consumption for unnecessary purposes. Aside from the immense consumption of gasoline for large-scale commercial purposes there is large consumption in small plants and by workmen traveling to and from work. Use for such purposes could not well be diminished, and the effect would be to impose a tax on small consumers for necessary use. Most of those who use gasoline only for pleasure driving could afford to pay the increased price, and consumption in that field would not be greatly affected.

**GENERAL KBUEGEK, COMMANDER OF** the third army, criticizes severely the handling of troops in maneuvers at Camp Polk, Louisiana. He says that because precautions against air raids were neglected the whole army might have been destroyed had the sham battles been real. That is a serious reflection on the fitness of the officers in charge of the particular units engaged. Naturally, that condition ought not to exist. But if it does exist it is imperative that its existence be discovered in order that it may be corrected. That, as I understand it, is one of the reasons for army maneuvers, including sham battles.

**WEEKS AGO GERMAN HEADQUARTERS** broadcast the information that Russian resistance was completely shattered, that the Russian armies were demoralized and in headlong flight. Such announcements have been repeated through the weeks. But the "demoralized" Russians have been able to hold back the German advance and compel Hitler's forces to fight for every foot of ground that they have gained. That the Germans have made important gains is indisputable. The important thing is that those gains have been made at tremendous cost in men and material, and, what is perhaps more important from Hitler's standpoint, in time. Weeks have been consumed in what was expected to be accomplished in days, and September is only a week away.

**JUST NOW THE GERMANS ARE NEARING** Leningrad, are almost within striking distance of Moscow, and are well into the Ukraine. But all the indications are that the Russians intend to defend their great cities to the limit and to destroy them before yielding them to the enemy. That may mean more weeks of hard fighting before those cities are reduced. Meanwhile, we shall see whether or not the Russians have been able to maintain the cohesiveness of their armies to the extent that they will be able to retreat in fairly good order, to give battle again and again, drawing the enemy farther into the vast eastern wilderness.

**IN THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR** flying bombers across the southern Atlantic and across Africa to the Near East, and for shipment of war material to Siberian ports, the United States is co-operating with Russia in this war. That co-operation implies no political alliance with Russia and no acceptance of Bolshevist philosophy. It implies no condoning of the Russian attack on little Finland. It is simply a realistic acceptance of opportunity to embarrass, obstruct and ultimately overthrow Hitler, the greater and more immediate menace. Reasons for opposing Hitler are not changed in any respect by the fact that Hitler chose to strike at Russia. It is to the interest of the United States that Russia be given help to strike back.

**EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK OR TWO** have given Japan small cause for satisfaction. Undoubtedly Japan's movement toward south western Asia and the Indies was due in part to urgings from Berlin. If a disturbance could be created in the Pacific, American aid to Britain in the other direction would presumably be curtailed. Also, the movement was in accord with the known and traditional ambitions of the Japanese war party. But when Japan poked her finger southward she found that she was stirring up a hornet's nest. Although fairly busy in other directions, Great Britain gave Japan blunt warning to keep her hands off; another warning, equally blunt, came from the United States; and the Dutch Indies boldly declared themselves ready to meet any attack that Japan might launch. To all to the Japanese perplexities, the United States is shipping supplies to Russia by way of Siberia, and Russia has a great eastern army which could pounce on Japan from the north. With all these complications surrounding her, Japan has been put on the defensive in several parts of China. If, now, she decides on war, it will be an act of desperation.

IN REPLY TO THE QUESTION about where the toads go a friend telephoned me that they just bury themselves. One of them did, anyway, right in his yard, while he was watching. The toad, of medium size, started digging in the tough sod with its front feet, making the dirt fly as a dog would do, and within a few minutes it had a hole big enough to fit, and it settled down into that hole and in some way gathered some loose earth over its back, leaving out only its snout and eyes. Question: Was it settling itself down for a snooze, or was it hiding itself so that the insects on which it feeds would come within reach without being frightened away?

LAST WINTER I WAS GIVEN A Christmas present in the form of a bird feeding appliance of a type new to me. A round stick of birch wood a foot long and two or three inches in diameter had five or six one-inch holes bored in it, and each hole was filled with seed mixed with what I took to be suet. It seemed like a good idea, and I hung it in a tree and watched for the birds to come and help themselves. Birds came and went, but not one paid any attention to the food offered. I set it in several positions, but the food remained untouched. All summer it has hung, forgotten, in a tree that is now covered with foliage. The other day I saw a little bird that I should call a downy woodpecker alight near the neglected stick and then head straight for it as if familiar with it. Attacking one of the little stores of food the bird pecked away until it had partaken of a good meal, then wiping its bill on a twig; it flew away. On examination I found that the food in several holes had been sampled. Though neglected in midwinter when one would suppose food was scarce, the little store of food has been discovered and is being used. Perhaps it had to hang about that long to ripen.

THE GRACKLE IS A DESERVEDLY unpopular bird because of its evil practice of destroying the eggs and the young of other birds. That is too bad, because the grackle is a beautiful bird which has some useful qualities which offset in part its bad tendencies. The glossy purple plumage of the male grackle's head and neck give the bird an appearance of real distinction, and instead of hopping about as so many other birds do, it walks with sedate and stately tread, making one think, perhaps, of an archbishop.

A VORACIOUS FEEDER, THE grackle must consume many times its weight in insects in the course of a season. Each summer I see a pair or two of the birds about the premises occasionally, so I suppose they must nest somewhere near by. Last fall I was visited by a whole colony of a dozen or so of the black birds, and from their behavior I guessed that there were two or three pair of adult birds and several young ones. Day after day for an hour or two at a time they took possession of the little back lawn, and they must have searched every inch of it for bugs and worms.

SOME WEEKS AGO I WROTE about a pair of birds that had built a nest near the home of a neighbor and which none of us were able to identify at the time. Though the birds were fearless they were so constantly in motion that it was difficult to get a good view of them. However, after several observations it was decided that they were cedar waxwings. In addition to the other characteristic features they had those peculiar little wax-like appendages on the tips of their upper wing features that give the name to that species. The mother bird sat patiently on the nest until three young ones were hatched. Then one day the whole family disappeared, leaving one unhatched egg in the nest.

AIR RAIDS HAVE NECESSARILY affected every line of industry in Great Britain, and the business of manufacturing goods of all kinds is conducted under hazards of instant destruction without notice. Nevertheless, production goes on, for the people must be fed and clothed even though there is a war on, and because the country is at war the continuous production of the implements of war has become a supreme necessity. But other lines of production are maintained, even though they may not be directly associated with war, for in the midst of war it is necessary that life progress as nearly as possible in its normal relationships.

HENCE, NOT ONLY ARE BRITISH publishing houses turning out their daily quota of newspapers in order that the people may be informed of what is going on at home and abroad, but books are still being produced in astonishing volume. Paternoster Row, the center of London's book trade, was shattered by bombs and went up in flames, and with it went hundreds of thousands of books, some of them precious volumes which had been treasured for centuries and which never can be replaced. But the publishers moved almost overnight into other quarters, some of which had been prepared in advance for such an emergency, and the business of publishing books goes on.

ONE LARGE PUBLISHING HOUSE, finding itself with two of the quickest best-sellers in its long and successful history, had to excuse itself to the retail trade clamoring for fulfilment of its piling orders. They were sorry, but a delayed action bomb had buried itself beneath their front doorstep and members of the force could not get to their places until the bomb had gone off. This sort of thing was regarded as one of the hazards of war-time publishing and was borne with patient good humor.

AMONG THE EFFECTS OF THEIR recently deceased daughter a North Dakota family found a poem entitled "The Nurse" in the daughter's handwriting. At various times the young woman had written short poems, but whether or not this one is her own is not known. The family would like to know, if possible, whether this poem is original or a copy, and if the latter, who is the author. The text of the poem follows:

#### THE NURSE

The world grows better, year after year, Because some nurse in her little sphere Puts on her apron and smiles and sings,  
And keeps on doing the same old things. Taking the temperatures, giving the pills To remedy mankind's numerous ills.  
Feeding the babies, answering bells, Being polite with a heart that rebels. Longing for home, yet all the while Wearing the  
same professional smile. Blessing the new born babe's first breath, Closing eyes that are stilled in death. Taking the blame  
for others' mistakes, O, dear, what a world of patience it takes. Going off duty at seven o'clock, Tired, discouraged, ready to  
drop. Then called back for special at seven

fifteen With woe in her heart that must not be  
seen.

Morning and evening, day and night, Just doing her job, praying it's right.

When we lay down our cap and cross the I bar  
O, Lord, will you give us just one little star To wear in our crown with out uniform  
new

In that wonderful city, where the head-nurse is You?

CAPTAIN ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT, son of the president, arrived in London from Iceland, checked in at a hotel and then disappeared from public view. Whether he had gone for a walk or was taking a bath was kept a profound military secret. The American embassy said, however, that he would hold a press conference at his hotel next morning. Why?

THAT ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY about the little dog that was picked up three miles off Long Island, swimming sturdily toward a point on the Connecticut shore seven miles away, prompts the question: How long and how far can a dog swim? I recall no records of long distance swimming by dogs, though I suppose there are such records. Some dogs take naturally to the water and swim easily, while others do not. The dog picked up in the Atlantic is a spaniel, which is preeminently a water dog. I am well acquainted with another dog, a nervous, high-strung Boston, which will plunge into the water readily, but which would wear itself in a very short swim. Instead of floating along easily with only her nose out of the water she struggles to get on top of it.

THE HUMAN BABY IS ONE OF THE few infancy animals that cannot swim instinctively. Cats are not fond of the water, but they can and do swim, and even a very young kitten which has never seen water will swim if thrown in. I remember a theory that was current among my youthful companions that while a pig could swim, it couldn't keep it up long because it would cut its throat with its front feet. Since then I have seen a few pigs swim, but I never knew one to cut its throat.

AN ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL Geographic tells of natives of a district in southern Mexico swimming their horses across a river, and says that sometimes the riders will place their feet between the ears of their horses in a futile effort to keep dry. I wonder if somebody wasn't spoofing the writer about that. Certainly that would be poor practice if the animal were actually swimming. The conventional way for a horseman to swim his horse across a stream is to slide off and cling to the beast's tail. The horse is a good swimmer, but with a man on his back he would be likely to drown.

ERNEST G. DODGE, WHO WRITES from Washington, D. C., but whom I am mable to identify, makes his contribution to the discussion of standard modern languages versus Esperanto. With no ractical knowledge of the subject myself I offer the suggestion that there is no necessary conflict between the two; that the romance languages must have their place in college courses; that a good knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese is essential to those likely to have personal contacts with their neighbors in Latin America; but that Esperanto appears to be a useful medium of communication for those who have not the time or the opportunity to undertake the real study of a foreign language. Mr. Dodge writes as follows:

"MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED to your 'That Reminds Me' column of August 14, which is largely devoted to a letter from Professor Henry E. Haxo In discussion of international communication, and the question whether the eventual full solution lies with the adoption of the consciously created auxiliary language, Esperanto, or in the international extension of some existing national language.

"The convinced adherents of Esperanto, of whom I am one, can agree with several of Professor Haxo's specific statements, but without concurring in his final conclusion, which is not altogether definite but seems to favor Spanish as the solution (for the western hemisphere only) of the international language problem.

"ONE MAY GRANT THAT SPANISH is a language having expressiveness and beauty, that it is widely used, and that its acquisition is less difficult than that of some other tongues of national origin; in short, that if a high school student who must include several years of language in his curriculum be given a choice between German, French and Spanish, there are arguments of considerable weight which might lead him to choose the last named in preference to one of the others.

"BUT WHEN ONE TAKES A COMprehensive view of the international language problem for the Americas, he must not for a moment forget that 40% of all Latin America, both by area and by population, is found in the one great republic of Brazil, where the language is not Spanish but Portuguese. It is true that Portuguese has a resemblance to Spanish, (somewhat as Swedish resembles Danish or as Czech resembles Polish), but the two differ widely in pronunciation, differ also in grammar and vocabulary; and the Brazilians (our very good friends to the south) are proudly conscious of the difference. So the learning of Spanish—useful though it admittedly is—is by no means a key to unlock all of Latin America (let alone the rest of the world) to a North American.

"OF COURSE ANY REFERENCE TO Latin America touches only one small segment of the world's language problem as a whole. Esperanto does not claim to be a "perfect" language, (in fact, no 'perfect\* language has ever existed or can, in the nature of the case, ever exist). Esperanto does claim to be a beautiful, exact, and thoroughly serviceable language— and one which is easy enough that a satisfactory mastery of it can be attained in about one third of the time needed for a satisfactory mastery of Spanish, for instance. Although based on European roots, and therefore less easy for Orientals than for us, it is significant that Esperanto has been much favored and practically used by both the Japanese and the Chinese, for the reason that it is so much easier for the natives of those countries than either English, German, or French.

"NATURALLY, THE NUMBER OF Esperantists up to present date falls far short orthe numbers who speak Spanish, or French, or Italian, or German. But there is a compensation here which is often overlooked. The Esperantists are scattered all over the world, forming numerous islands of intercommunicability to be found in all the nations. And because they are recruited from among folk having forward looking tendencies, the percentage among the Esperantists who are people that you or I might have some rational motive for wanting to exchange ideas which is far greater than the corresponding percentage among the native users of any national language whatsoever.

"BUT THE STRONGEST PILLAR OF all in the edifice of argument for Esperanto is of a different nature. It is

simply that Esperanto is not a national language. Hence its ultimate general adoption will not mean the imposing by any nation, or group of nations, of its own national pride of "superiority" upon other folk who have a justifiable pride in their own cultural traditions. This argument transcends questions such as those of simplicity and relative difficulty, because it is rooted in a spiritual fact of great significance."

AN EARNEST AND COMPETENT Social worker in an eastern city reports that of the small boys whom she took to a summer camp a few weeks ago not one had a suit of pajamas or other night clothing. They just slept in their shirts. That, thinks the worker, is evidence of a standard of living almost hopelessly low, and a condition with which society should concern itself.

I suppose there are several million men and boys in the United States who have never owned either pajamas or nightgowns, but who are intelligent and prosperous and live lives of reasonable comfort. Very many of them, though they have not acquired the habit of wearing separate sleeping suits, are economically above the average and have excellent social standing. Yet the social worker is right in accepting the absence of suitable night clothes on the part of her boys as evidence of a low plane of living.

ALL SUCH THINGS ARE RELATIVE. The tropical savage who is clothed only in a single brief garment may be a person of character, dignity and substance. He experiences no sense of humiliation because of his lack of fine raiment because fine raiment is not the custom of his tribe. He is dressed just as his neighbors are, and his standards are in all respects like theirs. But the boys who went to that camp live in a community whose customs have left their own families far behind. They are out of step with their neighbors.

PERSONAL HABITS AND THE means used to make them possible are subject to no unchanging set of rules. It is almost a century since the first bathtub was installed in a residence in the United States, yet the absence of bathtubs was not a sign of destitution. Running water in the home, electric lights, electric refrigeration and a lot of other things have come upon us gradually, and not until their use has become the rule in a community can their absence be accepted as evidence of a low standard of living.

NEARLY 300 YEARS AGO SAMUEL Pepys held a position equivalent to that of secretary of the British navy. To all intents he was the builder of the navy, and his social position was equal to that of any man in the kingdom. But his diary reveals the existence of living conditions in his own household which today would demand the calling out of the health department and the vigorous use of soap and water, scrubbing brushes, fumigation and fine-tooth combs. The London of that day was a filthy place, and not even its eminent residents, any more than the residents of other cities, understood the art of keeping clean. Yet there were a lot of fine people among them. .

MANY SECTIONS OF NORTH DAKOTA and Minnesota have been visited by countless numbers of toads. In western Grand Forks county and in Nelson county parts of Highway No. 2 are reported to be almost completely covered with crickets which, presumably, are equally numerous on the fields. Attracted, probably, by the crickets, there are clouds of gulls, so numerous that when they settle on a plowed field it appears from a distance as if covered with snow. For some reason that area seems to be a favorite with gulls which in the course of a season must consume many tons of insects. One is reminded of the gulls which saved one of the early crops of the Mormons at Salt Lake from destruction by locusts. In recognition of that service a monument dedicated to the memory of the gulls was erected in Salt Lake City.

I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE COMMON black cricket damages any of our early crops. It is a late-season insect, becoming active after most of the crops are harvested. It is, however, exceedingly voracious and destructive. Where crickets are numerous shocks of grain are often found filled with them, and shock which appears perfect on the surface will be found to be nothing more than an empty shell. Growing corn also suffers from the depredations of crickets, which strip the ears of their partly matured kernels.

PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE HORRIBLE nature of war and the desire for something of a lighter nature by way of contrast, a war period is always productive of a big crop of humorous yarns, some of them grim and some just funny. A current story which seems worth passing on is of an incident alleged to have occurred on the Norwegian coast. Villagers saw a plane, evidently in trouble, plunge downward and alight on the water. A boat crew went out to investigate and presently returned without passengers. "Didn't you find anybody?" the chief boatman was asked. "Only Germans," was the reply. "Were none of them alive?" "One of them said he was," replied the boatman, "but they're such liars you can't believe them."

COMPLETION OF THE GRAND Forks airport and re-establishment of air-mail and passenger service on what, this time, is certain to be a permanent basis, directs one's thought to the amazing development of air transportation, literally from nothing, within the lifetime of persons scarcely yet of middle age. Less than 40 years ago the Wright brothers made their first sensational flight of a few seconds. When stories came from Kittyhawk that a machine designed and built by the Wrights had taken off and traveled several hundred feet through the air under its own power, carrying a man, expressions of incredulity came from all over the country. It had been demonstrated scientifically that the thing couldn't be done. Langley's attempt made only a short time earlier, had failed. Man had never flown, and he never could fly. The Wright episode, whatever its form, was a stunt for publicity or other commercial purposes. Such were the comments that were freely made.

BUT PRESENTLY IT HAD TO BE ADMITTED that human flight was possible, for men were actually flying, at state fairs and popular celebrations. But that the airplane had a future other than as a means of entertainment was an idea that gained acceptance slowly. Several years after the first flight of the Wright brothers Hoxsey, at a Grand Forks fair, made the first flight ever made this side of the Twin Cities. He thrilled the crowds with his evolutions in the air, and he took up a passenger. But one of the reasons why Frank Kent was chosen for that first passenger flight was that his weight was not likely to overburden the plane. Frank was lighter then than he is now. Next week we shall have here a plane which normally carries 21 passengers.

THE WORLD WAR OF 25 YEARS ago gave aviation a tremendous impetus, for military men were quick to sense its possibilities and develop them. Today the plane is one of the major instruments of war, carrying many tons of weight, soaring to heights which make it almost invisible, and dropping bombs on targets beneath with unbelievable precision. And only the other day a big plane crossed the Atlantic, Newfoundland to Ireland, in 7 1/2 hours.

THE SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE of the airplane in war has tended to divert attention from its development as an instrument of peace. Its flights as a commercial vehicle have become so much a matter of course that they attract no more attention than the run of a railway train. We think little of the millions of miles of travel that are covered by commercial planes, carrying mail, passengers and freight to and from thousands of places, remote and otherwise inaccessible. The plane has made possible contact within a few hours with the vast mining country of northern Canada, clear to the Arctic, territory which formerly could be reached only by means of months of difficult and dangerous travel. It has penetrated the fastnesses of great South American jungles and it makes regular flights, swiftly and safely over the lofty Andes.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POWERLESS glider presents the peculiar feature that men learned to fly under power before then learned to glide without power. That is as if the child learned to run and jump before he learned to stand and walk. It is true that the Wrights made some experiments in gliding before they took to the air in a powered plane, but those experiments were not intended as actual flights. Their purpose was to acquaint the experimenters with forms of construction and methods of control which could be used in their powered machine. Not until men had learned how to use and control powered planes did they learn how to glide in planes supported by air currents alone. Now, gliding flights are made for hundreds of miles.

**PERFECTLY TIMED WAS THE PROCLAMATION** issued by Governor Moses setting apart the week beginning September 21 as Appreciation Week, and the reasons advanced for the observance are sound and convincing. North Dakota is peculiarly fortunate this year, not only in the volume of its farm production, but in the fact that the production is distributed with fine impartiality throughout the state, so that no section is deprived of its benefits.

**WHEAT IS NORTH DAKOTA'S** major cash crop, and doubtless it will remain so for many years, but the state's agricultural industry is widely varied. Live stock, dairy products, poultry, potatoes and sugar beets all contribute to the income of the farmer and the prosperity of the state, and while there is reason for gratification in this year's abundant wheat crop, the yield of those other products is equally satisfactory. There is, therefore, sound basis for appreciation.

**THE VALUE OF SUCH AN OBSERVANCE** as being arranged depends on the response of the people in their several communities, and there is every evidence now of general and wholehearted co-operation in the movement. Such an observance is warranted, not because this happens to be a year of good crops, but because faith in the state, which has persisted through years of difficulty, is shown to be justified. Through those years the elements of life which were present in the soil and climate of the state retained their vitality and were ready to respond when the cycle changed. And in like manner the faith of the people, which remains unshaken, finds justification, and in the facts of today there is inspiration for renewed effort to create new opportunities and discover hidden possibilities.

**IN A MAGAZINE ARTICLE SECRETARY** of Labor Perkins presents her conception of the functions of the office which she holds and gives her version of the reasons why she has not prevented strikes. On the latter point she cites the fact that other secretaries have not prevented strikes, which she appears to think a sufficient answer to complaints that have been made. Her job, as she sees it, is merely to represent labor in the United States government. A somewhat different conception would be that it is the business of the secretary of labor to represent the United States government in the field of labor. That does not appear to have occurred to Madame Perkins.

**ACCEPTING HER OWN VIEW OF THE** duties of her position, just how well has Secretary Perkins represented labor? If she is a faithful representative of labor she must be impartial in respect to controversies arising between rival organized groups, but her leanings have consistently been toward the group that has been most aggressive in fomenting labor troubles. And surely her representation of labor does not call for support of illegal rulings and illegal methods of enforcing them when controversy exists between employer and employee. It is conceded that she cannot prevent strikes, but there is no evidence of real and intelligent effort on her part to avert strikes which have cost working people millions in wages. Nor is there evidence of consideration by her of the interests of the great army of unorganized working people who suffer from every labor disturbance and pay a large share of the price of every unjust decision.

**GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA NOW OCCUPY** Iran. Fighting has ceased and an agreement has been reached providing for administration during the period of occupation. The Iran government could not have prevented this invasion, and, realizing that fact, it made only "token" resistance. Iran has been subjected to pressure from German enmity by yielding without resistance to the demands of Britain and Russia. Therefore it went through the motions of resistance to an attack which was made as mild as possible in view of the understanding that the defenders would presently yield. In that process, of face-saving some soldiers on both sides were killed—not many, but too many. The fact that men must be killed in attack and defense, neither of which is seriously intended is one of the absurdities of war, which in itself is the height of absurdity.